

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 541

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide that the House may not consider major legislation unless it addresses one issue at a time.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Mr. POLIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide that the House may not consider major legislation unless it addresses one issue at a time.

Whereas, the House Republicans' Pledge to America states: "We pledge to make government more transparent in its actions, careful in its stewardship, and honest in its dealings."; and

Whereas, the House Republicans' Pledge to America states under the heading "Advance Legislative Issues One at a Time": "We will end the practice of packaging unpopular bills with 'must-pass' legislation to circumvent the will of the American people. Instead, we will advance major legislation one issue at a time.": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That rule XXI of the Rules of the House
2 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
3 following new clause:

4 “12.(a) It shall not be in order to consider—

5 “(1) a bill or joint resolution that is major leg-
6 islation and advances more than one issue;

7 “(2) an amendment to a bill or joint resolution
8 to be offered at the outset of its consideration for
9 amendment by a member of a committee of initial
10 referral as designated in a report of the Committee
11 on Rules to accompany a resolution prescribing a
12 special order of business that is major legislation
13 and advances more than one issue; or

14 “(3) a conference report to accompany a bill or
15 joint resolution that is major legislation and ad-
16 vances more than one issue.

17 “(b) It shall not be in order to consider a rule or
18 order that waives the application of paragraph (a). As dis-
19 position of a point of order under this paragraph or para-
20 graph (a), the Chair shall put the question of consider-
21 ation with respect to the rule or order, bill, joint resolu-
22 tion, or conference report, as applicable. The question of
23 consideration shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the
24 Member initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes

1 by an opponent, but shall otherwise be decided without
2 intervening motion except one that the House adjourn.

3 “(c) For the purpose of this clause, the term ‘major
4 legislation’ means legislation that is not a Sense of Con-
5 gress or naming bill and would have a substantial impact
6 on the American people.

7 “(d) For the purpose of this clause, the term ‘ad-
8 vances only one issue’ means that the proposition focuses
9 on one scope and object.”.

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